

**S.R. 54 IMPROVEMENTS
SOUND CHURCH ROAD TO KEENWICK ROAD
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AREAS 1, 2, 3, & 4
(NEAR OLD MILL BRIDGE ROAD)
BALTIMORE HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE**

PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGY

Prepared for:

**The State of Delaware
Department of Transportation**

Prepared by:

**Barbara J. Gundy, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator**

and

Margaret G. Sams, CPSS

Submitted by:

**SKELLY and LOY, Inc.
Engineers-Consultants**

**2500 Eldo Road, Suite 2
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 856-1676**

May 2, 2008

R08-0100.002

ABSTRACT

Phase I archaeological investigations were completed for Stormwater Management (SWM) Areas 1, 2, 3, & 4 near Old Mill Bridge Road associated with the State of Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT's) proposed State Route (S.R.) 54 Improvements, Sound Church Road to Keenwick Road project. The SWM areas are located immediately east and south of the S.R. 54 intersection with Old Mill Bridge Road in Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. The location is included on the Assawoman Bay, Maryland-Delaware 7.5 minute United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle, in the Eastern Shore Coastal Plain physiographic province.

No previously recorded pre-contact or historic period archaeological sites or historic properties eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP are present within or adjacent to the proposed SWM Areas 1, 2, 3, & 4 APE. Pedestrian reconnaissance and the excavation of 68 shovel test pits (STPs) were used to survey the proposed SWM areas. A total of 74 historic period artifacts, including metal, glass, red brick, coal, shell, and plastic, was recovered during the Phase I archaeological survey. These artifacts most likely are associated with the mid- to late-twentieth century suburban residence (CRS# S-10028) which once was present on the property. The structure was razed after it had been originally recorded in 2004. The archaeological research did not identify any artifacts or cultural features associated with any pre-contact or historic period land uses of the site other than the previously documented mid- to late-twentieth century suburban domestic uses. Additional archaeological research would likely yield redundant results which would not be capable of effecting a determination of eligibility for the property.

Based on the lack of previously recorded archaeological sites present in the archaeological APE, and the inability of the preserved archaeological record to yield information important to the understanding of local, regional, or national history, the proposed construction of the S.R. 54 SWM Areas 1, 2, 3, & 4 as currently designed, will not affect any significant or contributing archaeological resources eligible for or listed in the NRHP. No additional archaeological investigations are warranted in the S.R. 54 SWM Areas 1, 2, 3, & 4 APE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
ABSTRACT	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
LIST OF FIGURES	ii
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS	ii
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Purpose and Need	1
1.2 Project Description	1
2.0 METHODS	5
2.1 History of Research.....	5
2.2 Background Research	6
2.3 Fieldwork	7
2.4 Processing, Analyses, and Curation.....	7
3.0 PREDICTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES	9
3.1 Pre-contact Period	9
3.2 Historic Period	9
4.0 RESULTS	17
4.1 Test Area A	17
4.2 Test Area B	27
5.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS	32
6.0 REFERENCES CITED	33
APPENDIXES	
APPENDIX A	ARTIFACT PROVENIENCE AND ANALYSES CATALOGS
APPENDIX B	SOIL PROFILES

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	Project Location	2
2	Plan View	3
3	Predictive Archaeological Surface for Project Area.....	10
4	Project Area in 1868	12
5	Project Area in 1901	13
6	Project Area in 1941	14
7	Project Area in 1946	15
8	Soil Profiles, Shovel Test Pits N642 E435 and N615 E330	25
9	Soil Profiles, Shovel Test Pits N630 E375 and N540 E315	26

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

<u>Photograph No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	View of the wooded portion of Test Area A, facing east	18
2	View of the old corn field portion of Test Area A, facing north	18
3	View of the short grassy portion of Test Area A, facing east	19
4	View of outbuilding #1 in Test Area A, facing northwest.....	19
5	View of outbuilding #2 in Test Area A, facing northeast.....	20
6	View of former house (CRS# S-10028) location in Test Area A, facing north. Note ground disturbance	20
7	View of dump area #1 in Test Area A, facing northeast.....	21
8	View of dump area #2 in Test Area A, facing north.....	21
9	View of dump area #3 in Test Area A, facing south	22
10	View of utility disturbance in Test Area A near corner of Old Mill Bridge Road and S.R. 54, facing south	22

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS (continued)

<u>Photograph No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
11	View of utility trench disturbance in STP N615 E405 in Test Area A, facing east.....	23
12	View of scrub vegetation covering Test Area B, facing south.....	28
13	View of scrub vegetation and gravel covering Test Area B, facing north	28
14	View of large drainage ditch, sediment fencing, and commercial disturbance to Test Area B, facing south	29
15	View of utility and commercial disturbance in Test Area B, facing southwest.....	29
16	View of utility disturbance in Test Area B, facing southeast.....	30
17	View of utility disturbance in Test Area B, facing southwest.....	30